

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 TORONT 01930 282023Z  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00  
PA-02 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02 /040 W  
-----121676 282029Z /63

R 281820Z JUL 77  
FM AMCONSUL TORONTO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5938  
INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA  
AMCONSUL MONTREAL  
AMCONSUL QUEBEC  
ALL OTHER CONSULATES GENERAL IN CANADA VIA POUCH

UNCLAS TORONTO 1930

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PGOV, CA  
SUBJECT: ONTARIO PREMIER DAVIS TELLS LEVESQUE PROPOSED INTER-  
PROVINCIAL LANGUAGE AGREEMENT NOT APPROPRIATE

REF: TORONTO 1913 (NOTAL)

1. IN LETTER DATED JULY 27, ONTARIO PREMIER WILLIAM  
DAVIS Wrote QUEBEC PREMIER LEVESQUE THAT PROPOSED  
INCLUSION IN QUEBEC LANGUAGE BILL OF CLAUSE PERMITTING  
INTERPROVINCIAL AGREEMENTS ON LANGUAGE RIGHTS IN EDUCATION  
AND NEGOTIATION OF SUCH AGREEMENTS BETWEEN THE PROVINCES,  
AS SUGGESTED BY PREMIER LEVESQUE'S JULY 21 LETTER  
TO DAVIS, NOT APPROPRIATE AS "AN ISSUE AS FUNDAMENTAL  
AS LANGUAGE RIGHTS IN EDUCATION IS NOT SOMETHING THAT  
CAN BE NEGOTIATED ON A BILATERAL BASIS BETWEEN PROVINCES.  
SUCH RIGHTS SHOULD BE ACCEPTED AS A MATTER OF FUNDAMENTAL  
PRINCIPLE AND NOT BE THE SUBJECT OF QUID PRO QUO ARRANGEMENTS."

2. DAVIS Wrote LEVESQUE THAT PROPOSAL FOR INTER-  
PROVINCIAL COOPERATION APPRECIATED AS MANY  
PROBLEMS CAN BE SOLVED THROUGH THIS APPROACH. DAVIS  
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EXPRESSED HOPE THAT LANGUAGE ISSUE "AND SIMILAR  
MATTERS OF COMMON CONCERN COULD BE THE SUBJECT OF  
DISCUSSIONS AT FUTURE INTERPROVINCIAL MEETINGS. THE  
UPCOMING PREMIERS' CONFERENCE IN NEW BRUNSWICK  
WOULD SEEM TO OFFER AN EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY FOR  
SUCH AN EXCHANGE."

3. MAJOR PART OF DAVIS LETTER DEVOTED TO ONTARIO COMMITMENT TO DEVELOPMENT OF A FRENCH LANGUAGE SCHOOL SYSTEM IN ONTARIO AND THE GUARANTEE OF FRENCH LANGUAGE SCHOOL RIGHTS AS SET OUT IN PART 11 OF THE EDUCATION ACT. DAVIS REFERRED TO ONTARIO-QUEBEC AGREEMENT FOR COOPERATION AND EXCHANGE IN EDUCATION AND CULTURAL MATTERS, SIGNED JUNE 4, 1969, IN WHICH ARTICLE 2 STATES "WE WILL PROVIDE, WHEREVER FEASIBLE, TO STUDENTS OF THE FRENCH-SPEAKING AND THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING MINORITY IN THE LANGUAGE OF THAT MINORITY. WE WILL ALSO PROVIDE THEM WITH THE MEANS TO ACQUIRE A GOOD COMMAND OF THE LANGUAGE OF THE MAJORITY. DAVIS CONTINUED, "WE FEEL THAT WE HAVE MADE THE NECESSARY EFFORTS TO LIVE UP TO THAT COMMITMENT AND WE SHALL CONTINUE TO DO SO. I WOULD HOPE THAT THE SAME ATTITUDE WOULD PREVAIL IN QUEBEC."

4. IN EVIDENCING ONTARIO GOVERNMENT'S ACTIONS IN SUPPORT OF COMMITMENT TO FRENCH EDUCATION, DAVIS MENTIONED GOVERNMENT'S ACTION IN REQUIRING THE CONSTRUCTION OF A FRENCH LANGUAGE SECONDARY SCHOOL IN ESSEX COUNTY OVER THE OBJECTIONS OF THE LOCAL SCHOOL BOARD.

5. COPIES OF DAVIS' LETTER AND OF ONTARIO-QUEBEC AGREEMENT BEING SENT ADDRESSEES.

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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Subject:** ONTARIO PREMIER DAVIS TELLS LEVESQUE PROPOSED INTER- PROVINCIAL LANGUAGE AGREEMENT NOT APPROPRIATE  
**TAGS:** PGOV, CA, (DAVIS, WILLIAM)  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009